

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

To provide an aligner capable of controlling a proper light exposure in accordance with an oxygen density and moisture density on an laser beam optical path, an aligner of the present invention is an aligner for illuminating a mask (or reticle) with the light emitted from a light source to expose an object to be exposed with the light reflected from the mask, which is provided with the following:

10 oxygen density detection means for detecting an oxygen density on an optical path from the light source up to the object to be exposed;

moisture density detection means for detecting a moisture density on the optical path; and

15 control means for controlling a light exposure irradiated to the object to be exposed based on the detection results of the oxygen density detection means and the moisture density detection means.